

STOP THE INVASION- REPORT THIS PEST

Rubber Vine

Maui County Priority Pest for Maui, Lanai, and Molokai:

Rubber vine (*Cryptostegia species*) is considered one of Australia's worst pests. This fast growing, self-supporting vine is sometimes planted in gardens. A toxic milky sap is produced when any part of the plant is scratched or broken.

Identification

Height- up to 2 m (6.5 ft)

Flower- White to light purple, funnel shaped, 5 petaled, 50 mm (2 in) long and wide

Fruit- Rigid pods 120 (4.75 in) mm long and 40 mm (1.6 in) wide

Leaves- Glossy leaves 6-10 cm (2.3-4 in) long; opposite growth arrangement



Flower detail



Seed pod detail



Garden planting in Old Wailuku Heights, Maui

Don't mistake rubber vine for these look-alikes:



Purple allamanda (*Allamanda violacea*):

This showy vine has similar flowers to rubber vine and also produces a milky sap when leaves are broken. Purple allamanda has a 3-4 leaf whorled (arranged like spokes on a wheel) leaf growth pattern, while rubber vine's leaves are arranged in an opposite pattern.



Brazilian Jasmine (*Mandevilla sanderi*): This is another sap producing vine used in landscaping and gardens. Brazilian jasmine can be differentiated from rubber vine by the color of its trumpet shaped flowers, which are pink to red in color with white to gold throats and are up to 4 in (10 cm) across. This plant is considered a safer alternative to rubber vine for garden planting